

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant is herewith submitting one new sheet of drawings, FIG. 1A.

Attachment:
New Sheet

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REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application. All claims currently stand rejected. Specifically, claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Greif and claims 3 and 5-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over at least one of Greif, Wordin, Tickner, Brown and Davenport. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests favorable disposition of the application.

Drawings

Regarding the objections to the drawings, as requested by the Examiner, Applicant has submitted herewith a new sheet of drawings, FIG. 1A, showing a sideview of an embodiment of the claimed invention. Further, the specification has been amended in accordance with the new figure. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be reconsidered and withdrawn in view of this new figure.

Claims

Informalities

Claim 12 has been amended to change the word "form" to "from," in accordance with the suggestion by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 12 is kindly requested.

Rejections

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Greif (USP 5,743,628). Applicant respectfully submits that at least because Greif fails to teach, or even suggest, at least one reflective mirror positioned in the middle region

and operative to reflect light generated by each of said gas discharge bulbs outward from the middle region, as expressly recited in independent claim 1, neither claim 1, nor any claim dependent upon claim 1, can be anticipated by Greif.

As disclosed in the specification and figures, and claimed in claim 1, the present invention includes a plurality of bulbs surrounding a reflective mirror. The reflective mirror is configured such that the light from the bulbs surrounding it is reflected from its surface and directed outward, i.e., away from the mirror(s). Accordingly, light generated by each of the bulbs, for example that portion of the total light of each bulb that faces the mirror, is reflected and more light is generated around the entire circumference of the lamp than would otherwise have been generated, e.g., if the mirror had not been in place.

Greif, in comparison, is directed to an illuminating device that includes incandescent lamps and a discharge lamp. In particular, as shown in figures 2a and 2b, incandescent lamps 7, 8, 9 and 21 surrounding a discharge lamp 10. Indeed, discharge lamp 10 has a reflector 24 associated with it, however, this reflector only reflects light from the discharge lamp 10 and does not reflect light from each of the lamps that surround the reflector. See, for example, FIG. 2b and Col. 3, lines 39-42.

For at least this reason, claim 1 is not anticipated by Greif and the §102 rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4 should be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 5-9 each depend from claim 1 and each of these claims stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Greif in combination with at least one of Tickner (USP 5,377,086) and Wordin (USP (6,170,962). Because neither Tickner nor Wordin, alone or in combination, compensate for the deficiency of Greif,

described above, claims 3 and 5-9 are patentable over the proposed combination of references for at least the same reason as set forth above with respect to claims 1, 2 and 4 and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 5-9 is kindly requested.

Claims 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Davenport and at least one of Brown and Tickner. Applicant respectfully submits that at least because the proposed combination of references fails to disclose, at least one light pipe positioned in the middle region and configured to gather light generated by said gas discharge bulbs and redirect the gathered light outward from the middle region, as expressly recited in independent claim 10, neither claim 10, nor any claim dependent upon claim 10, is rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 by Davenport and either Tickner and/or Brown.

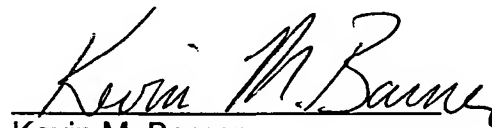
As disclosed in the specification and figures (see, e.g., FIG. 4), and claimed in claim 10, at least one light pipe is positioned in the middle region around which a plurality of gas discharge lamps are located. The light pipe gathers at least a portion of the light generated by the gas discharge lamps, for example that portion of the light that extends from the lamps adjacent to the middle region, and redirects the gathered light in a direction that is outward from the middle region. In this manner more light is directed outward from the middle region than would have otherwise been directed in this direction.

None of Davenport, Brown and Tickner, either alone or in combination, discloses the feature of a light pipe in a middle region of at least one gas discharge bulb that gathers light from the bulbs and directs the light outward from the middle region. For at least this reason the §103 rejection of claims 10-15 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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